(c) whether Government have been urged to consolidate efforts to create job avenues in different sectors;

(d) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The number of job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, on the live register of the employment exchanges as on December, 2003 was 4.14 crores. It is also true that in the year 2002 the number of vacancies notified to the employment exchange was 2.2 lakh as against 2.6 lakh in 2003.

(c) to (e) Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan has laid emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which have high employment potential. Particular attention has been paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have large employment opportunities.

Child labourers in Orissa

1726. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the child labourers found in the State of Orissa as per the 2001 Census and what are the rehabilitation measures Government are taking to prevent this evil from the State;

(b) the number of projects under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) going on in the State at present and which is the first project in the State and the achievement found there from that project, till date;

(c) whether there is any long-term proposal from Government to check the growth of child labour in the country; and

(d) what is the position of fund allocation for this project during the current Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per the provisional figures of 2001 Census, the

number of child labourers in Orissa is 3,77,594. The scheme of National Child Labour Project, which is a Central Sector Scheme, has been extended to 18 districts of Orissa and aims at withdrawing and rehabilitating children through special schools and finally mainstreaming them into the formal education system. The first National Child Labour Project was sanctioned in the Sambalpur district of Orissa in 1993-94. At present, 3500 child labourers are enrolled in the special schools in the districts under the scheme, 5050 children have been mainstreamed into formal schools so far.

(c) The Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms. However, considering the magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach is being followed. As per the strategy adopted by the Government under the 10th Plan, with the help of a focused action and an effective convergence of various developmental schemes, particularly the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, it is Government's endeavour to eliminate child labour from hazardous employments by the end of the 10th Plan.

(d) The fund allocation for the scheme of National Child Labour Project including Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies during the current Five Year Plan period is Rs. 602 crores.

. **Financial aid to the hospital of beedi workers**

†1727. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual financial aid to be provided by the Centre to beedi workers hospital, Gurusahaiganj (Kannoj, U.P.);

(b) whether Government have carried out any inspection or made any assessment of availability of equipments, staff nurses, medicines in pathological laboratory of the said hospital;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government would immediately consider on increasing financial aid and taking other measures for renovation of the said hospital?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.